

Curriculum Vitae, Elena Grifoni Winters



Name: Elena Grifoni Winters
Nationality: Italian
Mobile:
Email:

Profile

Senior level Executive in the aerospace sector, with extensive international experience, knowledge and focus on technology and policy/governance aspects.

Professional experience/achievements

▪ Instituto de Empresa/ IE University

IE University is an international institution based in Spain, globally recognised for the excellence of its academic programs, many of which rank among the top 10 in the world.

Since 07/2025 → Consultant – Space Management and Governance

▪ Institut pour les relations économiques France-Italie (IREFI)

IREFI is a bilateral, independent Think Tank with the mission to facilitate the economic relations between France and Italy.

Since April 2025 → Member of the Council of Experts

▪ Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI)

GSSI is one of four Italian international PhD schools for advanced studies and a center for research in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Social Sciences.

Since 01/2024 → Visiting Professor – Space Policy and Governance (L'Aquila, Italy)

▪ Centre d'Analyse et de Prévision des Risques Internationaux (CAPRI)

CAPRI is a French Think Tank specialised in the prevention and analysis of conflicts.

Since 11/2024 → Consultant – Space Sector

▪ ERG Group

The ERG Group is an Italian independent operator of clean energy from renewable sources.

04/2021 – 03/2024 → Member of the Board of Directors of ERG and of the Board's Committee for Appointments and Remuneration (Genova, Italy)

▪ Italian Prime Minister's Office

09/2022 – 12/2023 → Head of the Space and Aerospace Policy Office of the Prime Minister's Cabinet (Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri), Rome, Italy: responsible for the Italian space and aerospace policy, activities and budget and for overseeing its implementation; defined the new Italian Space policy and main elements of the new Space Law.

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▪ European Space Agency

The European Space Agency (ESA) is an intergovernmental organisation which is implementing the space projects common to its 23 European member states.

04/2016 – 08/2022 → *Head of the Cabinet of the Director General (ESA HQ, Paris, France):*

Adviser of the Director General and manager of its Cabinet; member of the Board of Directors; Secretary of the Council of the European Space Agency.

2007 – 03/2016 → *Head of the Coordination Office, Space Station programme and Special Adviser of the Director general (ESA HQ Paris, France)*

2000 – 2006 → *Head of the Utilisation Strategy and Education/Communication Office, Space Station programme (ESA Technology Centre, the Netherlands):* EC Joint Task Force for the elaboration of a European Space Policy; implementation of the educational programme on 8 missions of ESA astronauts to the International Space Station.

1987 – 1990 and 1996 – 2000 → *Software and Senior Programme Engineer (ESA Technology Centre, the Netherlands):* Negotiator of multiple agreements with NASA/US, Japan and Russia for the Space Station Programme.

▪ NASA

1991 – 1995 → *System Liaison Engineer for ESA to NASA (Johnson Space Centre (TX) and NASA Space Station Office (VA) – USA)*

Additional Functions (Current)

- Associate Gran Sasso Tech
- Committee member Women Economic Forum (Italian Chapter)
- Public Speaker

Additional Functions (Past)

- Contribution to the Report for the European Council regarding the single market “Much More than a Market” (April 2024)
- Secretary to numerous international (space related) Boards
- Representative at the “Board for education and Space” of the Dutch Ministry of Education
- Member of the Advisory Board to the Dutch “Nieuwe School”
- Committee member/panel leader Women Economic Forum (Rome, Nov. 2023 and 2024)

Education

Università di Pisa (Italy), Facoltà di Matematica e Scienze Naturali: Master’s Degree in Computer Science (1986)

Among others:

- University of Southampton (UK): Space Engineering (1988)
- Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge MA (USA) Negotiations (2015)
- Master Class des Administrateurs, Cercle des Administrateurs (F) (2021)

Languages Italian: native speaker
 English: fluent
 French: fluent
 Dutch: fluent

Honours Cavaliere dell’Ordine della Stella d’Italia
 Premio Europa-Italia (Scienza e Società) – IUSE 2022
 Premio Atena Donna 2019